



Press Release

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For Immediate Release

#02-10

June 14, 2002

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Spring Storm Situation Update

Helena, Mont – After the week long effort to assist with the spring storms and flooding situation in northern Montana, the onsite resources provided by the state will be sent home. By the end of today, the agency representatives assigned to the Browning emergency operations center will have been demobilized. Additionally, the assigned helicopters are no longer needed and have been returned to Helena.

The state emergency coordination center (SECC) located at the disaster and emergency services (DES) office will remain activated at a lower level to continue monitoring the situation statewide.

“The threat for flooding has not completely passed,” said Steve Knecht, SECC response coordinator. “We are continuing to work closely with other agencies to monitor all variables which could play a part in future flooding. The most critical factors are the current stream levels, the vast amount of snow still in the mountains, and any adverse weather events.”

The Browning emergency operations center will close today at 10:00 pm.

According to Knecht, the duty officer for the state DES is accessible 24 hours/day. If the situation escalates throughout the weekend, assistance from the state is readily available.

Damage assessments for the affected areas have begun and documentation is being gathered to determine the impact this disaster has had statewide.

For information on advisories, watches and warnings throughout the state, visit the National Weather Service's website:

<http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/wrhq/javaLinks/index.shtml>

Other sites that provide helpful information are as follows:

To view the DES situation report:

<http://discoveringmontana.com/DMA/DES/SituationRpts.htm>

The Extension Disaster Emergency Network's site: <http://www.montanahelp.org/>

For more information, contact Monique T. Lay, PIO at 841-3911.

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